

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A transaction processing method utilizing an order request servicing system for routing order requests to multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the method comprising:

receiving an order request;
processing the order request into multiple processed order requests;
selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests;
for each of the processed order requests, transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
receiving from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and
integrating the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.

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2. (ONCE AMENDED) A system for performing the method of claim 1.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes placement of an order for one or more items, each item being selected from a group consisting of a good or a service.

5. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items and processing the order request into multiple processed order requests further comprises:

splitting the order request into the multiple processed order requests wherein each processed order request includes at least one of the items.

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6. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items for a client and selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests further comprises:

using electronically stored routing rules to select a fulfillment partner from business relationships of the client to provide each item ordered.

7. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items, the method further comprising:

generating a fulfillment plan which pairs each item in the order with a selected fulfillment partner.

8. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request is a request to view information related to orders including ORMS catalog information.

9. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request servicing system is a hub in an order servicing organization and the ORMS of a first of the fulfillment partners comprises a spoke in the order servicing organization and further comprises another order request servicing system, the method further comprising using the order request servicing system of the first fulfillment partner to:

- (a) process the processed order request of the first fulfillment partner into multiple processed order requests;
- (b) select fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests in (a);
- (c) for each of the processed order requests in (a), transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner in (b);
- (d) receive from each of the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (c) ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners in (c); and
- (e) integrate the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (d).

10. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein:

receiving an order request includes receiving the order request through a gateway, each gateway being selected from a group consisting of the following:

an electronic data interchange (EDI) gateway; and

an extensible markup language (XML) gateway;

transmitting each processed order request to one of the selected ORMSs includes using a communication link to the selected ORMS;

receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected fulfillment partners includes

receiving respective ORMS data via the communication link; and

the communication link is selected from a group consisting of the following:

the Internet;

one or more direct communication links;

a satellite network;

a cellular network; and

a local data transport system.

11. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein:

receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected ORMSs includes at least one of the following:

receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected fulfillment partners individually; and

receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected fulfillment partners in a batch in response to a transaction transmitted from the order servicing system to each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners.

12. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an order request includes receiving the order request from a client system.

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13. (NEW) The method of claim 12 wherein the client system includes at least one of the following:

- a computer system with a client interface that is used by customers to place order requests;
- the order request servicing system recursively calling itself; and
- a first order request servicing system transmitting one or more processed order requests to an ORMS, the ORMS including a second order request servicing system.

14. (NEW) An order servicing organization system for routing order requests to multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the order servicing organization system comprising:

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- a first order request servicing system having an interface to receive an order request, having a memory to store business relationship information relating a client and the fulfillment parties, and having a processing engine to:
 - process the order request into multiple processed order requests;
 - select fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests using the business relationship information;
 - for each of the processed order requests, transmit the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
 - receive from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and
 - integrate the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.
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15. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 14 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items for a client, and the first order request servicing system further comprises:

- routing objects to access the business relationship information and select the fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests.

16. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 14 further comprising:
a client system having a client interface; and
a communication link between the client system and the first order request servicing system.

17. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 16 wherein the client interface is selected from a group comprising a kiosk, a web storefront, and an Internet terminal.

18. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 16 wherein the first order request servicing system is a hub in the order servicing system, the order servicing organization system further comprising:

N order request servicing systems which form order servicing system spokes from the first order request servicing system, each of the N order request servicing systems having an interface to receive a processed order request from the first order request servicing system, having a memory to store business relationship information, wherein N is a positive integer, the N order request servicing systems each further having a processing engine to:

- (a) process the processed order request into multiple processed order requests;
- (b) select fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests in (a);
- (c) for each of the processed order requests in (a), transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner in (b);
- (d) receive from each of the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (c) ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners in (c); and
- (e) integrate the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (d).

19. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 16 wherein the order request includes an order for one or more items, each item being selected from a group consisting of a good or a service.

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20. (NEW) A transaction processing system having an order request servicing system for routing order requests to multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the transaction processing system comprising:

- means for receiving an order request;
- means for processing the order request into multiple processed order requests;
- means for selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests;
- means for transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
- means for receiving from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and
- means for integrating the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.

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21. (NEW) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for utilizing an order request servicing system for routing order requests to multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the method comprising:

- receiving an order request;
- processing the order request into multiple processed order requests;
- selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests;
- for each of the processed order requests, transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
- receiving from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and
- integrating the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.